

Application No. 09/720,102
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The invention is illustrated in and by the following examples. Additionally, the strength of the product granules obtained in the following examples was checked after a 3 months' storage, and the strength was found to be unchanged.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below (such amendments being particularly shown with deletions bracketed and additions underlined in the attached Appendix).

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1. (Amended) A process for the preparation of compound fertilizer granules containing plant nutrient nitrogen and at least one of the plant nutrients phosphorus and potassium, said process comprising the steps of:

providing a solid feed material comprising at least solid urea fertilizer raw material and optionally recycle material,

feeding the feed material or a part thereof into a melter for melting a desired portion thereof and keeping said portion in molten state to provide a partly molten material,

feeding the partly molten material and optionally other desired solid raw materials to a granulator to obtain a granulated product, and

cooling and optionally screening the granulated product to obtain dry compound fertilizer granules having a desired size distribution,

provided that no water or aqueous liquid is introduced into the process.